



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2018-I-0878

**JUN 22 2018**

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Southwestern Coffee Island Habitat Restoration Project – Phase 1", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed habitat restoration project includes the planning activities for the restoration and creation of nesting habitat for colonial nesting water birds, as well as the restoration of tidal wetlands along the southwestern shoreline of Coffee Island, located in south Mobile County, Alabama. This phase of the project includes only engineering, design and permitting.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

**JUN 27 2018**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0903

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Alabama Sea Turtle Protection: Enhancement and Education", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would minimize or avoid human activities that have adverse effects on sea turtles. Project activities would involve the use of vehicles and boats on any waters or coastal lands where opportunities exist to promote sea turtle conservation through increasing awareness and understanding, increasing enforcement of laws, reducing fisheries bycatch, or reducing impacts on nesting sea turtles. The action area includes the entire Alabama Gulf coast in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Perdido key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*) and Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*). This project will reduce injury and mortality to sea turtles directly related to fisheries interaction, human interaction, and illegal feeding and harassment, as well as reduce take through enhanced state enforcement, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**JUN 27 2018**

2018-I-0908

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle Conservation (CAST) Program Transfer and Expansion", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would build upon the existing program's capacity to protect and increase Alabama's sea turtle population. This project would ensure that the program is adequately funded to operate into the future. The action area includes the entire Alabama Gulf coast and includes coastal and nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including Perdido Bay, Little Lagoon, Bon Secour Bay, Mobile Bay, and Mississippi Sound in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Perdido key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*) and Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*). This project will reduce injury and mortality to sea turtles directly related to fisheries interaction, human interaction, and illegal feeding and harassment, as well as reduce take through enhanced state enforcement, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0909

JUN 27 2018

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle Habitat Usage and Population Dynamics", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would use biological, genetic and stable isotope analyses to study sea turtle migration patterns, habitat use, human threats, and life history parameters for sea turtles using Alabama waters. The action area includes the entire Alabama Gulf coast and includes coastal and nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including Perdido Bay, Little Lagoon, Bon Secour Bay, Mobile Bay, and Mississippi Sound in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and the Alabama red-bellied turtle (*Pseudemys alabamaensis*). This project will improve sea turtle habitat conservation by providing data on sea turtle habitat use, such as identifying important foraging areas within Alabama waters, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**JUN 27 2018**

2018-I-0911

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Lower Perdido Islands Restoration Phase I (Engineering and Design)", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project is the first phase of the Lower Perdido Islands Restoration. For this phase, a conservation management plan would be developed to evaluate the best methods for minimizing adverse impacts on sensitive habitats, and conduct a sediment modeling study to provide information on island erosion to inform future habitat restoration activities on the islands. The project area encompasses approximately 420 acres and includes Robinson Island, Bird Island, Walker Island, and the surrounding estuarine and marine environment in proximity to Orange Beach, Baldwin Counties, Alabama. Results from this study would provide wildlife managers with information regarding potential wading bird habitat restoration priorities and opportunities for coastal avian species on the Alabama coast.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0910

JUN 27 2018

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle Triage and Treatment Center", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project involves the construction of a new sea turtle triage and treatment center. This project will provide an appropriately equipped facility and program for the initial triage, treatment, release and/or transfer of injured or ill marine turtles. This facility and associated program would allow greater numbers of sea turtles to be treated and released, faster and with less stress on the animal from handling and transport. The Action Area would be located in the City of Orange Beach, Baldwin County, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*).

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0902

**JUN 27 2018**

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Establishment of Protected Oyster Gardening Program Grow Out Areas", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would create up to three off-bottom oyster grow-out areas in the Mississippi Sound and Bon Secour Bay. The project will identify and prioritize future restoration reef locations including nearshore living shorelines and intertidal reefs. The project will also monitor the success of oyster survival and reproduction of both the grow-out areas and restoration sites to determine effective techniques to increase the sustainability of oyster populations in Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*).

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**JUN 27 2018**

2018-I-0901

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Side-Scan Mapping of Mobile Bay Relic Oyster Reefs", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will use sonar technology to identify benthic areas of mid- to lower-Mobile Bay that are suitable to support cultch material for oyster reef restoration. Approximately 8,847 acres of non-contiguous state-owned water bottoms have been identified for side-scan mapping based on a 1968 survey conducted on relic oyster reefs in Mobile Bay. Beneficial impacts of this project will result from increased understanding about existing conditions and oyster restoration opportunities in Mobile Bay.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*).

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

**JUN 27 2018**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0881

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Little Lagoon Living Shorelines", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will restore a minimum of 2,200 feet of shoreline of Little Lagoon within a project area that includes approximately 3,900 feet of shoreline. The project includes planning, implementation and monitoring of a living shoreline project, which uses natural materials rather than hardened structures or barriers, strategically placed to provide protective erosion control management to restore natural habitat, function, and processes. The proposed project is within the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and would occur on State-owned water bottom in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

**JUN 27 2018**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0882

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Assessment of Alabama Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphin Populations and Health", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will investigate the seasonal abundance, distribution, and habitat use of bottlenose dolphin on the Alabama coast by utilizing photo-ID techniques, assess dolphin health using field observation and remote biopsy sampling. This research would provide valuable post-spill data for bottlenose dolphins, a largely unstudied top predator in Alabama waters. Surveys will be conducted within all suitable bottlenose dolphin habitat within Mobile Bay in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**JUN 27 2018**

2018-I-0884

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Alabama Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphin Protection: Enhancement and Education", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would provide increased resources for state enforcement and education around a variety of bottlenose dolphin protection issues in Alabama. The project would increase resources dedicated to state law enforcement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and it would foster awareness and understanding of the MMPA through education, training and outreach. The action area includes all coastal and estuarine waters in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Alabama red-bellied turtle (*Pseudemys alabamensis*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Perdido key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*) and Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*). This project will reduce injury and mortality to marine mammals and sea turtles directly related to fisheries interaction, human interaction, and illegal feeding and harassment, as well as reduce marine mammal take through enhanced state enforcement, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

JUN 27 2018

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0886

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Enhancing Capacity for the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will enhance the capacity of the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network's (ALMMSN) to respond to, necropsy, and analyze samples collected from stranded cetaceans in Alabama waters to better understand causes of cetacean illness and death. The information collected by the ALMMSN from stranded cetaceans will enable managers to mitigate impacts to cetaceans from natural and anthropogenic threats and to monitor population recovery post oil spill. The action area includes all tidal, coastal and nearshore waters in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Alabama red-bellied turtle (*Pseudemys alabamensis*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*). This project will increase cetacean survival through better understanding of causes of illness/mortality and early detection and intervention of anthropogenic and natural threats, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**JUN 27 2018**

2018-I-0888

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Fowl River Nutrient Reduction Project", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will restore water quality in the Fowl River watershed through non-point nutrient and sediment reduction from rural agricultural lands. This will be accomplished through site-specific planning to develop conservation plans that will implement conservation practices with the goal of making a measurable difference in water quality at the watershed level. The Action Area includes the Fowl River Watershed which encompasses 53,000 acres and drains much of southern Mobile County, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the black pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*), Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) and wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0897

JUN 27 2018

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Weeks Bay Nutrient Reduction Project", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will restore water quality in the Weeks Bay watershed through non-point nutrient and sediment reduction from rural agricultural lands. This will be accomplished through site-specific planning to develop conservation plans that will implement conservation practices with the goal of making a measurable difference in water quality at the watershed level. The Action Area includes the Weeks Bay Watershed which encompasses 130,000 acres in southwest Baldwin County, Alabama.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) and wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0899

JUN 27 2018

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Oyster Cultch Relief and Reef Configuration Study", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project will include deployment of oyster cultch to investigate the merit of deploying different types of cultch material in various configurations to facilitate positive settlement and growth of oysters upon selected reed areas in Mobile Bay, Mobile County, Alabama. The action area consists entirely of open water.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*).

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**JUN 27 2018**

2018-I-0879

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Colonial Nesting Wading Bird Tracking and Habitat Use Assessment", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed study is a telemetry tracking study of the movements of up to four species breeding along the Alabama coast. The project objective is to better understand the extent to which declines in colonial nesting wading bird populations result from habitat limitations versus other potential causes such as increased prevalence of predators or human disturbance. The proposed main study site would be Galliard Island, located in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama. Results from this study would provide wildlife managers with information regarding potential wading bird habitat restoration priorities and opportunities for coastal avian species on the Alabama coast.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The project activities involve restoring and enhancing coastal wetland habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2018-I-0900

**JUN 27 2018**

Mr. Ben Frater  
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Oyster Hatchery at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project is to construct an oyster hatchery at the Alabama Marine Resources Division's (AMRD) Claude Peteet Mariculture Center in Gulf Shores. The project also provides for the expansion of an existing concrete pad at the AMRD office on Dauphin Island. Both of these project components will provide beneficial impacts of restoring oysters in Mobile Bay.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*).

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office